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SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FALL ATHLETICS UPDATE

September 23, 2020

Good afternoon.

This morning the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health announced [new youth sports guidelines](#) that loosen the restrictions on moderate contact level sports and start allowing competitions beginning on Monday, September 28th. This announcement from the county does not change fall athletics for the Valley Park School District.

On August 21st, the Valley Park School District elected to postpone all fall athletics. To participate in the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) [alternate fall season \(March 12-May 1\)](#), districts had to commit by September 17th, and we elected to do so. On September 21st, MSHSAA seeded district placements for the state of Missouri based on districts that elected to compete in the traditional fall season.

The coronavirus's uncertainty, the county's restrictions, and the desire to have students return to the classroom were primary drivers in our decision.

In our August communication, we also shared that our athletic conference opponents and many non-conference opponents were also electing to compete in the alternative fall season. When we remove those opponents from the remaining traditional fall schedules, our fall athletes would have lost nearly the entirety of their seasons. Softball would only have 4 regular-season games remaining, Volleyball 3 games, and Soccer 2 games.

Mr. Hamilton, our Activities Director, is continuing to collaborate with our conference activities directors and reaching out to other district directors who have opted for the alternative fall season to ensure our students have more competitive opportunities in the spring. In working with our conference opponents and the other districts who have opted for the alternative fall season, we can provide our athletes with more competitive opportunities in the spring than we could in the remaining fall season. It also provides our student-athletes a chance to compete safely in MSHSAA state competitions later this year. MSHSAA has stated that the alternative fall season will consist of a regular season and a MSHSAA post-season.

Our decision to participate in the alternative fall season prioritizes our school community's health and safety. Our desire is for students to return to in-person learning when public health officials recommend it safe. By participating in the alternative fall season, we also maximize our student-athletes opportunities for competition.

Thank you for your continued kindness, patience, and grace as we strive to make decisions that prioritize our students' and staff's health and safety.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tim Dilg
Superintendent